

Message Text

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64

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

TRSE-00 /063 W

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R 181845Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0358

INFO SECDEF

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY ANKARA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USCINCEUR

USNMR SHAPE

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 05941

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: MARR, MILI, PARM, UK, NATO

SUBJECT: DEFENSE CUTS UNDER HEALEY BUDGET PROPOSALS

1. DEFENSE SPENDING IS TO BE CUT BY ANOTHER 110 MILLION POUNDS IN FY 1976 UNDER THE BUDGET PRESENTED APRIL 15 TO THE COMMONS BY CHANCELLOR HEALEY. DEFENSE EXPENDITURE FOR 1976 HAD BEEN PEGGED AT 3800 MILLION POUNDS (PLUS AN ADJUSTMENT TO COMPENSATE FOR INFLATION, SINCE 1974).

2. MOD THINKS THE CUT - WHICH WAS SPRUNG AT THE ELEVENTH HOUR AND ORIGINALLY HAD BEEN PROJECTED AT 200 MILLION POUNDS -
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UNDS - IS MANAGEABLE AND WILL NOT INVOLVE FURTHER PROCUR-

EMENT SLOWDOWNS OR PERSONNEL CUTS. MINISTER OF STATE
ROGERS ASSURED EMBOFF ON APRIL 16 THAT NATO RELATED PRO-
GRAM WILL NOT BE AFFECTED.

3. THE BRITISH SERVICES UNDOUBTEDLY ANTICIPATED THAT SO-
ME FURTHER REDUCTIONS MIGHT BE ASKED FOR FY 1976 AND
PLANNED ACCORDINGLY. IN THIS CONNECTION, WE UNDERSTAND
THE RAF PRUDENTLY HAD LEFT SOME 35 MILLION POUNDS UNALL-
OCATED IN ITS FY 1976 PROGRAM.

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